INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SATELLITE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

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Thank you, Mr. Taylor. Mr. Bradley, Mr. Hawkins, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is a proud day for the United States Army. Seldom do we have such an occasion as this in which we see some of the fruits of our labor figuratively laid on the altar of posterity.

The cycle of research and development, production, and delivery of useful equipments to our military users is a long and painstaking process. Each step in that cycle often represents only a small gain at best. On most of those occasions when we attempt to celebrate some new accomplishment, the full scope and significance of our achievement is often not clearly recognizable. It is only with the passage of time that a reasonably accurate assessment can be made. It is only then that the pattern in the great mosaic of modern technology becomes clearly defined.

We in the Army take special pride in having been among the pioneers in space communications. Pioneering efforts in this area were directed perhaps as much from necessity as from inspiration. The need for a fast, reliable global communications network for military purposes developed during World War II. What served the purpose then, and served it well, quickly became inadequate, even after that war was over.

In the era of only partial mobilization since World War II, the traffic load on the Army's global communications network became as much as fifty percent greater than the peak year of World War II. It was in contemplation of ways in which we might improve our global communications capability that we explored the possibility of using earth-orbiting satellites. Among the first of these to be developed anywhere were the SCORE and COURIER communications satellites which we commemorate today.

The success of these two experiments is well-known and the feasibility of a global communications network using a system of satellites was dramatically demonstrated. In examining the mosaic of recent technological progress, SCORE and COURIER stand out in bold outline as achievements of considerable significance. More recent experiments have developed greatly improved techniques and improved performance capability. Even better things are expected in the future. However, undeniably, SCORE and COURIER have earned a place in history.

On such an occasion as this it seems appropriate that the men most responsible for these achievements be given personal recognition. It had been my sincere desire to do so since many of them are here today. After carefully considering the record, however, I could only conclude that such a procedure would be out of the question. This was a team operation and there were teams within teams. The cooperation between the Army and Industry, which made these achievements possible, represented Army - Industry teamwork at its best. If I were to attempt to acknowledge the contributions of all individuals whose accomplishments were outstanding, this ceremony would be drawn out to some time in the

afternoon. May I instead express my appreciation to all of you collectively for your history-making accomplishments.

The research and development programs in communications satellites, both in the military services and in private enterprise, promise eventually to provide a global communications system of tremendous capacity and giving real-time service. This means the day is not too far distant when every country, every region on Earth, will be as close to you as your nearest telephone - and placing the call will involve no more time and effort than telephoning your neighbor.

Apart from the military advantage that this implies, the stimulation to world commerce and the contribution to greater world understanding that such a global communication system could provide is exciting to contemplate.

This ceremony is being held here today in recognition of early pioneering efforts which will make possible the achievement of these eventual goals.

Since SCORE and COURIER communications satellites were products of Army research and development endeavors, it seems altogether fitting that they should be presented to the Smithsonian Institution by the head of Army Research. And so I now take pleasure in introducing to you the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Development, the Honorable Willis M. Hawkins, who will do these honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army, Mr. Ailes. Ladies and gentlemen: Mr. Hawkins.